

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-15 are pending in this application, with Claims 1, 4, and 10-15 being independent.

Claims 1-7, and 9-15 have been amended to improve their form. In addition, Claims 1, 3, 10, 12, and 14 have been amended to overcome a formal objection and rejection thereto. Applicants submit that support for the amendments can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of Claims 4-9, 11, 13, and 15.

In response to the objection to the disclosure because it lacks updated priority information on the first page of the application, Applicants respectfully traverse this objection. Since Applicants are claiming priority of this prior application under 35 U.S.C. § 119, MPEP § 201.11 requires only that this prior application be identified in the application data sheet, which has been done. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

Claims 1 and 3 have been objected to and Claims 1-3, 10, 12 and 14 stand rejected under 35.U.S.C. §112, second paragraph for informalities in Claims 1, 3, 10, 12, and 14. In response, while not conceding the propriety of the objection and rejection, Claims 1 and 3 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner to overcome the objections thereto, and Claims 1, 3, 10, 12, and 14 have been amended to address the points raised by the Examiner in the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicants submit

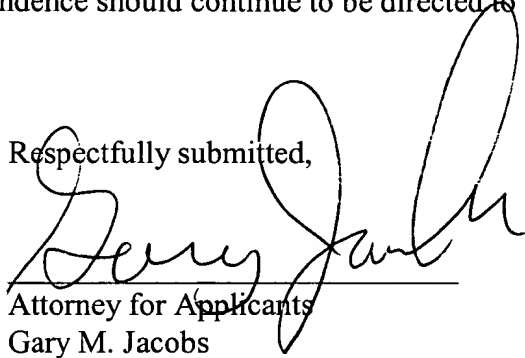
that as amended, these claims now even more clearly satisfy 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-3, 10, 12 and 14 stand rejected under 35.U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,614,914 (Rhoads et al.).

In response, while not conceding the propriety of the rejection, independent Claims 1, 10, 12, and 14 have been amended to include the features of allowed Claims 4, 11, 13, and 15, respectively. Therefore, these claims and their dependent claims are now in allowable form and early passage to issue is respectfully solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary M. Jacobs", is written over a horizontal line.

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